



Resolution 27-2008
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Pescadero, California
October 31, 2008

**Reclassification and Addition of
Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve
into the existing Año Nuevo State Park**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into categories specified in California Public Resources Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve was acquired in 1958 and originally designated as a state park, re-designated as a state reserve in 1963, and reclassified as a state natural reserve through legislation in 2004, with the purpose of preserving and protecting a major breeding habitat area of the northern elephant seal and making available for visitors' enjoyment a natural segment of the Central California coastline, with its sandy beaches, tide pools, rugged headlands, and coastal dunes; and

WHEREAS, the inland Cascade Ranch was acquired in 1985 and classified and named Año Nuevo State Park in 1999 to allow for consideration of recreation opportunities and park development, which would not have been allowed if it had been an addition to the State Natural Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Año Nuevo State Park currently consists of 2,900 acres on the inland side of State Highway 1, and the State Natural Reserve consists of 1,300 acres of marine terrace, sandy dunes and beaches, rocky coastline, and Año Nuevo Island seaward of Highway 1; and

WHEREAS, the combined size of these two existing park units is approximately 4,200 acres, and their natural and cultural resource values and outstanding scenic characteristics are comparable with other units of this size that are currently classified as state parks; and

WHEREAS, this Commission recognizes the uniqueness and distinction of Año Nuevo State Park and Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve for their abundance and diversity of significant natural, historic, prehistoric, and scenic resources as well as the outstanding recreational opportunities that are based on said values; and

WHEREAS, the Año Nuevo State Park General Plan proposes reclassifying the state natural reserve as a state park and consolidating this unit with the existing inland state park in order to provide more comprehensive and effective park management and protection for this diversity of natural and cultural resources and opportunities for diverse recreational use; and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WHEREAS, the Año Nuevo State Park General Plan also proposes natural preserve and cultural preserve sub-classifications to provide additional resource protection for extraordinarily significant natural and cultural resource areas of this consolidated state park; and

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval a proposal for expanding the existing Año Nuevo State Park by the addition and reclassification of Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve as state park, as recommended by and consistent with the purpose, vision, and goals of the General Plan for Año Nuevo State Park proposed for adoption by this Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis contained in the proposed General Plan for this unit and testimony received during this public hearing as the basis for this change in unit classification from state natural reserve to state park; and be it further

RESOLVED: pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's recommendation for the expansion of Año Nuevo State Park by the reclassification and addition of Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve to the existing Año Nuevo State Park.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on October 31, 2008 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at Pescadero, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 10-31-08

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Ruth Coleman, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission